

REMARKS

Claims 2-62, 64-71, 73-95 and 97-105, are now in this application.

Claims 19-22, 50-56, 95 and 97-103 were allowed in the last Office Action. By this amendment, all of the claims which remain in this application have been modified to be dependent on these previously allowed claims. Additionally, a few of the claims, such as 64 and 69, have had further minor revisions added so that they read properly from a different base claim. Accordingly, it is believed that all of the claims now in this application are allowable over the prior art of record in this application.

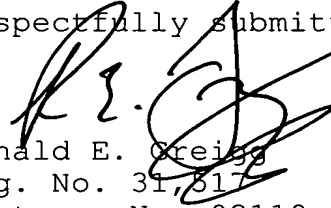
It is noted that on July 9, 2001, two letters to the draftsman were submitted in response to the Examiner objection that the drawings did show all of the claimed features. The first of letters to the draftsman added reference numeral to the drawings which were already present, the second letter to the draftsman added new figures 3A and 3B. Because no acknowledgment of either of these letters to the draftsman have been received, and the Examiner has dropped the objection to the drawings which he had included in the first Office Action of January 9, 2001, it is assumed that the drawings in the application are acceptable, and formal copies of the drawings, with the changes submitted, will be submitted upon receipt of a notice of allowance.

If in reviewing this application, the Examiner should notice any further issues which may have been missed in the revisions

made by this amendment, he is requested to phone the attorney at the phone number listed below.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald E. Greigg  
Reg. No. 31,817  
Customer No. 02119  
Attorney for Applicants

Dated: August 1, 2002

GREIGG & GREIGG, P.L.L.C.  
1423 Powhatan Street  
Suite One  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Tel. (703) 838-5500  
Fax. (703) 838-5554

REG/SLS/kw



Appendix, claims 2, 8, 9, 36, 38, 41, 57, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 73, 78, 79, 80, 81, 89, 95 and 104, with brackets and underlining to show the changes which have been made by this amendment:

2. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1]  
wherein the conditions at the remote location comprise  
conditions of a container at the remote location.

8. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1]  
wherein the first power source comprises a battery supply.

9. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1]  
wherein the first power source comprises a first power  
source having a power level.

36. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1]  
wherein the transmitting means comprises an encoder

38. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1]  
wherein the receiving means of the base module comprises a  
receiver and a decoder, whereby the receiver receives the  
transmitted information from the transmitting means and  
relays the information to the decoder, and the decoder

conveys the transmitted information to the first processing means.

41. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1] wherein the first processing means of the base module comprises a first microprocessor.

57. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1] further comprising a telephone jack, the telephone jack allowing direct connection to the telephone line of the base module.

64. (Twice Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1] further comprising

disconnecting means for disconnecting the call to the pre-programmed telephone number after a predetermined number of rings and before the receiving means has answered the call,

whereby the disconnecting means prevents the call from being completed, and

wherein the disconnecting means comprises a modem.

65. (Twice Amended) The sensing device of claim 64 [1] wherein the predetermined number of rings comprises no more than four rings.

66. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1] wherein the identifying means comprises a second processing means and a CALLER ID unit, the CALLER ID unit being connected to the second processing means.

68. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1] wherein the identifying means comprises a CALLER ID unit.

69. (Amended) The sensing device of claim 19 [1] wherein the base module further comprises [a base module having] reporting means for reporting conditions at a close proximity to the base module.

73. (Amended) The method of claim 95 [72] wherein the conditions at the remote location comprise conditions of a container at the remote location.

78. (Amended) The method of claim 95 [72] wherein the detecting step comprises using remote sensors.

79. (Amended) The method of claim 95 [72] wherein the detecting step comprises using switch inputs.

80. (Amended) The method of claim 95 [72] wherein the detecting step comprises using an ultrasonic ranging unit.

81. (Amended) The method of claim 95 [72] wherein the reading step and the transmitting step occur in a transmitting module.

89. (Amended) The method of claim 95 [72] wherein the receiving step, the selectively processing step, the calling step and the conveying step all occur in a base module.

95. (Twice Amended) A method of monitoring conditions at a remote location, comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting the conditions at the remote location;
- (b) reading the conditions at the remote location;
- (c) transmitting information regarding the conditions at the remote location;

- (d) receiving the transmitted information;
- (e) selectively processing the transmitted information to determine which of a list of pre-programmed telephone numbers to call;
- (f) calling the pre-programmed telephone number;
- (g) conveying the information; and
- (h) [(g)] identifying the remote location of the call,

wherein the selectively processing step comprises the steps of:

- (a) firstly verifying the information received by the receiving step;
- (b) secondly verifying the information received by the reporting step;
- (c) matching a condition with a telephone number from the list of pre-programmed telephone numbers, the condition being verified by the firstly verifying step and the secondly verifying step; and
- (d) sending the information regarding the condition to the calling step, and

wherein the firstly verifying step comprises the step of waiting for two consecutive transmissions of the same information from the transmitting step, the waiting step ensuring that the transmissions comprise valid information.

104. (Amended) The method of claim 95 [72]  
further comprising the step of detecting whether a telephone  
line used by the calling step is off-hook.